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March 22, 1977

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Secretary has asked me to reply to your letter of February 23 concerning four Argentine nationals.

We regret to inform you that the efforts of our Embassy in Buenos Aires to obtain information concerning Dr. Mauricio Lopez and Miss Monica Mignone have been to no avail. Both cases have been raised with the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and we have been advised that there is no record of their whereabouts. In addition, in Dr. Lopez' case, our Embassy has been in touch with his colleagues in the Methodist Church; in Ms. Mignone's case, the Embassy has been in touch with her family. There has also been considerable Congressional interest in Dr. Lopez and Ms. Mignone, an interest which the Argentine government is well aware of.

The Department has no information concerning the whereabouts of Mrs. Mercedes Julieta de Oliveira Cezar. Copies of this correspondence, which include identifying data on Mrs. Oliveira, will be forwarded to our Embassy in Buenos Aires in the hope that they may know something further. We will notify your office promptly if we learn something.

With respect to an application for political asylum by Mr. and Mrs. Juan Carlos Asarte, I can assure you that the Department will carefully review any request for an advisory opinion submitted to it by the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

The Honorable
Donald M. Fraser, Chairman,
Subcommittee on International
Organizations,
Committee on International Relations,
House of Representatives.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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As you requested, we are sending copies of this reply to Mrs. Schroeder and to Mr. Juan S. Behr-Menendez.

I hope this information is helpful to you.

Sincerely yours,

Douglas J. Bennet, Jr.
Assistant Secretary for
Congressional Relations

Enclosure:

Correspondence Returned.

Drafted:ARA/ECA:FERondon:jc
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Clearances:ARA/ECA:RWZimmermann
D/HA/ORM:LArthur
ARA:GLister
H:ASwift
Curtis Cutter

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